

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 130935
ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05 OES-07 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-15 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 /126 R

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APPROVED BY ACDA/NP:CVANDOREN
AF/W:MEATON
L/T:GBELL (INFO)

-----092090 232119Z /73

P 232020Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NIAMEY PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130935

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, TECH, NG

SUBJECT: NIGER ADHERENCE TO NPT

REFS: (A) STATE 72980; (B) NIAMEY 1484; (C) STATE 82371

1. DEPT WOULD LIKE TO ELABORATE ON REF C RE NPT. AS POST
IS AWARE (REF A) USG IS MAKING A CONCERTED EFFORT TO
INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARTIES TO THE NPT. NIGER IS ONE OF
THE FEW COUNTRIES LEFT IN NORTH AFRICA WHICH HAS NOT
ADHERED TO THIS TREATY. NIGER'S POSITION AS A URANIUM
EXPORTER MAKES NPT ADHERENCE ONE OF OUR MAJOR GOALS VIS-A-
VIS THIS COUNTRY. WE SEE SERIOUS NON-PROLIFERATION
PROBLEMS IN THE EXPORT OF URANIUM WITHOUT THE TYPE OF SAFE-
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PAGE 02 STATE 130935

GUARDS OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED BY NPT PARTIES. (ARTICLE
III.2 -- PARTIES UNDERTAKE NOT TO PROVIDE SOURCE
MATERIAL TO NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES UNLESS THE MATERIAL
IS SUBJECT TO IAEA SAFEGUARDS AS REQUIRED BY THE NPT.)
THUS, ALTHOUGH WE APPRECIATE NIGER'S RESPONSIBLE POLICY
REQUIRING IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON URANIUM EXPORT TO PAKISTAN,
GON COULD GIVE FURTHER SUBSTANCE TO THIS POLICY BY

ASSUMING IT AS AN INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION PURSUANT TO THE NPT. SUCH ACTION WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION BY NIGER TO INTERNATIONAL NON-PROLIFERATION EFFORTS, WARMLY WELCOMED BY THE US.

2. IN THOSE COUNTRIES SUCH AS NIGER WHICH HAVE NO IDEOLOGICAL OPPOSITION TO THE NPT AND NO DESIRE TO KEEP THE NUCLEAR OPTION OPEN, THE ONLY BAR TO ADHERENCE IS GENERALLY BUREAUCRATIC DELAY. POST SHOULD THEREFORE BE PERSISTENT IN ADVOCATING NPT ADHERENCE AND IN MONITORING WHATEVER CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS IS NECESSARY TO OBTAIN ADHERENCE.

3. OTHER COUNTRIES IN NORTH AFRICA WHICH ARE NOT NPT PARTIES ARE: ALGERIA, EGYPT, MAURITANIA, GUINEA, GUINEA-BISSAU, CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, AND DJIBOUTI. OF THESE MAURITANIAN OFFICIALS HAVE RECENTLY RESPONDED FAVORABLY TO ADHERING TO THE TREATY AND EGYPT IS A SIGNATORY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, NUCLEAR AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE130935
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FBUCHHOLZ;KMCMANUS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780217-0915
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780528/aaaaaxds.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65804698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 72980, 78 NIAMEY 1484, 78 STATE 82371
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2599341
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIGER ADHERENCE TO NPT
TAGS: PARM, TECH, NG
To: NIAMEY USIAEA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65804698-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014